A Loving Exhortation,

TO

All Kings, Princes, Potentates, Bishops and People in the whole CHRISTENDOM.

Wherein is a Distinction betwixt the

TRUE and FALSE

TEACHERS.

To be Read over in Meekness and the Fear of the Lord.

Written by *Thomas Taylor*.

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A Loving Exhortation,

TO

All Kings, Princes, Potentates, Bishops and People in the whole Christendom, &c.

O Ye Kings, Princes, Potentates, and Rulers of the Earth, we desire not your Thrones, Honours, Places or Dignities, neither do we envy you for them; for we have enough in God our Reconciled Father, who hath made us *Kings* and *Priests* to himself by Jesus Christ, spiritually to reign over the evil in the World, and to offer up our selves in righteousness to his Glory; and this is our Crown, and that which we strive after in a pure Conscience; for we are not of those that fight with flesh and blood, and with carnal weapons, for an earthly Crown, but such as in the strength of Almighty God are taught with spiritual weapons to war only against that *Mystery of Iniquity* and *Power of darkness* that captivates the pretious Soul of Man, and keeps it short of the Glory of God; desiring from the truth of our hearts, that neither the Soul nor Body of any may perish, but that this Wicked one, which is the Enemy of both, may be destroyed out of the Earth, in this day of Christ, by *the Spirit of his mouth and brightness of his appearing*; that so the whole Creation of God may be delivered from Bondage, to stand in its holy Order, to the glory of the Creator, as in the beginning; that so he may take delight in the Children of Men, and make his abode with them, as at that time, *when the Morning Stars sung for joy, and all was full of beauty and sweetness, and no Death in them.*

And O ye Bishops and high Teachers of the World, we desire not your Seats, neither do we envy you for your great Promotions, but do desire that you may know with us, *the true Shepherd and Bishop of the Soul, Christ Jesus*, the *good* and *true Shepherd* and *Bishop*, *who gave himself for the Sheep*, that he might *Redeem* them from all *Iniquity*, and *de-*

liver their Souls from the hands of all *Oppression*, to serve him in his own *free Spirit*, where none can come to make afraid. And as this *Saviour* you come to *know* and *receive*, your knowledge of Men and things according to the flesh will cease, and the Love of the World, and the Worlds things will die in you, and a Love to the *Seed* that breaths after Righteousness will arise in you, and you will know what God requires of you, and how you may do that which will commend you to God in the great day of his Judgment, which is nigh at hand, and apply your hearts thereto.

Therefore awake, awake, arise, arise, for the great day of the Lord is indeed nigh at hand, yea the Sun is already arisen, and his bright glory shineth upon the Sons of the Morning, and the true searching Light from which nothing can be hid, is felt and known in the Earth, and before it the workers of iniquity are as Chaffe, and before it can no mortal man stand in Judgment, though he glister never so much in outward glory in the Worlds eye; for in the presence of this Light, the Judgment proceedeth not according to person or worldly appearance, but according to Truth, Equity and Righteousness; and so every Evil-doer hates this Light because his deeds are evil, and the Light reproves him to his Face, and in his Heart, without respect to his Person. And therefore none but they whose deeds are wrought in God, can willingly come to this Light with their deeds, or endure that this Light should pass Judgment on them; for its the Righteous only that hath praise in the presence of this pure God, the *Light who lighteth every man that cometh into the World*; and is come a *Light* in the World, *that all through him might believe*, and come out of *Darkness*, and the deeds thereof, and be saved.

So if any of you perish, it is in your love of Darkness, and *your destruction is of your selves*, for God would have you to be *saved*, and to that purpose holds forth his Love in his Light to your Consciences daily, that you might be warned and not perish: And if this Gospel of his Love and Grace, the Light, be hid from you, it is because the *God of this World*, with his deceitful Allurements, *hath blinded your eye*. Mark, *The God of this World hath blinded your minds*, that Old Serpent who is called the *Devil* and *Satan*, and *Prince of the power of the Air, which works in the hearts of all disobedient ones*, hath captivated your Understanding, if this Gospel of Light you perceive not to Love and Obey it. And consider how the power of Darkness deceives man; it begins with him betimes, and works subtilly with him in his mind when he is tender and young, carrying him forth eagerly after Childish Vanities, and youthful Lusts, if by the Light, that secretly checks for these

things, he be not resisted. The World tells the Youth that by going forth into some form of Religion, and conforming to that, is Gods way by which man may be helped against his sin; but God, the Truth saith, *I have laid help upon One that is mighty*, Christ Jesus the Light, who is to be known in man, a present help against sin. And, *by what means*, saith *David, may a young man cleanse his way*, save only *by taking heed according to the Word of God*. And, *the Word is nigh, in the heart*, saith *Paul, discerning the thoughts and intents thereof*. And, *the Light shineth in darkness*, saith *John*, (in man) yea, *in every man that cometh into the World*, making *all things* in *secret*, *manifest*; and who can hide their deeds from it? So if the young men come not to this Light, then they abide in darkness, and grow up in darkness, and covering themselves, but not with the Spirit of God, so long, until there be no remedy, but the wo and the curse must needs come upon them. But *he that followeth me*, saith Christ, (the Light) *shall not abide in darkness*, sin nor evil, *but shall have the Light of Life, and shall not come into condemnation*.

So, *He that hath an ear, let him hear*, and mind the Light of Christ in you, that lets you see all that ever you have done, and sets before you your sins in order, and brings Judgment and Condemnation upon your Souls for them: And love the Light and its righteous Judgements, for *Zion* must be redeemed through Judgment; and bring all your deeds, words and thoughts, to this Light of Christ, and hide not any thing from it; for he *that hideth his sins*, from the Lord, *shall not prosper*. But he that in this true Light sees his sin, and forsakes the sin, and turns to God in his Light, and abides therein, shall be blessed. But wo is the portion of such as turn not to him that smites them, but instead of owning the pricks and reproofs of Wisdom, kick against them. These are the ungodly, whose Sacrifice the Lord could never accept; but they abiding in their sins, all their Prayers and performances were still returned upon them, from the pure God, as dung upon their faces. Therefore, *go not forth*, saith Christ, *for the Kingdom of Heaven* (which he compared to many little things) *is within you: And when they shall say, Loe here, loe there*, saith Christ, *go not after them*: for those that draw People from the Light and Spirit of Christ (that holy annointing within) in man, were alwayes Antichrists. And in *John* the Apostles time, many of these were come; and, *they went out from us*, saith the same *John* (the beloved Disciple of Jesus.) *From us*, understand such as were in the Anointing of God, which taught all things, and they needed not that any man should teach them, abiding in the Anointing, wherewith their souls and spirits, of God were anointed; for that was true, perfect, and sufficient *to lead them into all truth*, according to the

Promise,

Promiſe; it was in them a Spiritual Unction, a free Gift from the holy One in Chriſt, the promiſed Seed, with whom through Faith (the right holy Faith) they were become one Spirit, and ſo became Heirs of the Promiſe, and true Witneſſes of the New and Everlaſting Covenant, which ſaith, *And they ſhall all be taught of God.* Theſe are not outwardly anointed, as thoſe under the Law (the Figure) were, but theſe were and are ſpiritually anointed of God himſelf, in Chriſt, and ſo were and are true Heirs of the Goſpel (the ſubſtance) and true Children of the day, walking in that heavenly and eternal Light, wherein they could and do in truth ſay, *Our fellowſhip is with the Father and the Son.* So here in this holy Body there was no Antichriſts; but thoſe that went out from theſe into the Worlds Wayes, Worſhips, Cuſtoms, Traditions and Inventions, theſe were Antichriſts: and now being gone forth from the Lord and his Spirits Teaching, they become one with the World, uſing their Tongues to talke of the things of God in the worlds ſpirit, without God: and ſo *they being of the World* (ſaith *John*) *therefore the World hears them,* 1 John 4. 5. *But he that is of God* (ſaith the ſame *John*) *heareth us,* even us that abide in the holy Anointing of God in us. *And my Sheep hear my voice,* ſaith Chriſt, *and follow me, but a ſtranger they will not follow.* So there are two Spirits, the Spirit of Chriſt, and the ſpirit of the evil World: and two ſorts of Teachers accordingly; the one hears the voice of God in Chriſt, and in the ſtrength of this Spirit, goes forth with the Word of God, and Goſpel of Truth in their heart and mouth, in obedience to God, and pure love to the Soul of man, and not for filthy lucre, nor any worldly end whatſoever; and theſe the true Seed, Gods Little Ones, Lambs and Sheep hear, love and are one with, meerly for the Truths ſake, which is one, and endures for ever.

But now contrariwiſe, the other ſort of Teachers, who are rightly called *Strangers*, becauſe they *are ſtrangers to the Life of God*, and holy motion of his Spirit; they go forth in their own Wills, according to the motion of their own earthly ſpirits, without God, for ſelf-ends, in the allowance of the earthly Power, Name, and Authority; not to build up the Body of Chriſt, or to miniſter to his Seed in any, for to that they are Strangers, but to commend themſelves to fallen mans wiſdom for ſelf-advantage, and to gather People into ſeveral Forms and out-ſide Profeſſions and Obſervations, where all ſorts of Sinners are taught to ſay, *Lord, Lord*, but never a one to do *the will of God perfectly from the heart*; and ſo they build up *Babel*, the *City of Confuſion*, where there is *like Prieſt, like People*, the Teachers living in ſin, and the People that follow them living in their ſins, alwayes learning, never learned to wor-

ſhip God aright : For the Teacher being blind through his ignorance of God and Chriſt, he muſt needs *lead them* that follow him from God, *into the ditch*. And of this ſort were they in Chriſts time, *that loved to be called of men, Maſter*; fair ſayers, but evil doers, *who loved the praiſe of men and their greetings in the Markets, and the chief and high places in their Feaſts and Synagogues; and loving*, for this end, *to go in long Robes and coſtly Apparel, outwardly appearing beautiful to the Worlds eye, but inwardly full of Pride, Covetouſneſs, uncleanneſs, the Spirit of Perſecution, and all manner of Unrighteouſneſs*, as one may read in the 23 *Chap.* of *Matth.* and other places of Scripture, where Chriſt had to do with the falſe ſpirited Rabbies in his day, whom he compares to *Graves, painted Tombs, Serpents and Vipers, who ſhut up the Kingdom of Heaven againſt men, and neither entred in themſelves nor ſuffered others, but did what they could to hinder thoſe that were entring*. And of ſuch Chriſt gave his Diſciples warning *to take heed in time to come*, and told them, *though ſuch Wolves ſhould get the Sheeps cloathing on them* (to wit, the good words, or ſo) *yet they ſhould not truſt them, but ſhould know them by their fruits*. And ſo the Tree that is by nature a Thorn and a Thiſtle, hath manifeſted its fruit : *and by their fruit the Children of Light now know them*, and according to Chriſts will, avoid them. And of this ſort are they that not only in the dayes of Chriſt *withſtood him*, but even the ſame that in all ages *withſtood his Spirit and Work*, as at this day. For with ſuch earthly ſpirited Teachers it was that the Prophet *Jeremiahs* heart was ſo broken in his day, as one may read all along the 23. *Chap.* of his Propheſie, and of whom in his *fifth Chapter* he ſo grievouſly complains, ſaying, *A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the Land : The Prophets propheſie falſly, and the Prieſts bear rule by their means, and the People love to have it ſo. And therefore deſtruction from the Lord came upon them all.* And theſe Teachers ſaid ſtill in their lying earthly ſpirit, *that Jeruſalem (though ſinful) ſhould have peace, and that no evil ſhould come upon them People, though they walked every man after the imagination of his own evil heart*, Jer. 23. 17. And of this ſort were they that the Lord ſent his Prophet *Micah* to cry againſt, ſaying ; *Thus ſaith the Lord concerning the Prophets that make my People to erre ; that bite with their teeth, and cry peace ; and he that putteth not into their mouthes, they even prepare war againſt him : Therefore night and darkneſs came upon them, and the Viſion ceaſed from them in the juſt judgement of God. For a ſelf-end was in all their work, and the dead fly of covetouſneſs corrupted all :* as one may read at large in the *third Chapter* of his Propheſie, *Verſe* 5, *&c.* And of this ſort are they that *Iſaiah*, the Prophet of God, in his time ſo grievouſly complains of alſo, as one may read in the 56. *Chapter* of his Propheſie,

saying, *Vers. 9, &c. All ye beasts of the field, come to devour; yea, all ye beasts of the forest: his Watchmen are blind, greedy, &c. all looking for their own way, every one for his gain from his quarter,* &c. And against this sort of earthly-spirited Teachers it was that God sent his Prophet *Ezekiel* to cry wo against, saying, *Wo to the Shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves; should not the Shepherds feed the flock? Ye eat the fat, and ye cloath you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed, but ye feed not the flocks.* And so the God of this World through pride and covetousness had so blinded their eye, and corrupted their hearts, that they had neither will nor skill to help nor heal the poor diseased, sick, broken, scattered souls of their hearers; and therefore the Lord was glad to put them aside as *Physicians of no value*, and became the Teacher of his People himself; as one may read in the 34. *Chapter* of his Prophesie, throughout. *Glory to the Lord who hath fulfilled his Promise to his Israel this day*; and is become the Teacher of his People himself, whereby they come to be truly profited, as it is written, *I the Lord thy God teach thee, O Israel, to profit.* But the fore-mentioned Teachers, who have run in their Wills, for self-ends, and the Lord never sent them, could never profit People at all: and as Christ Jesus the Lord, and his true Prophets, in former times were troubled and opposed by such hirelings; So also the true Apostles of Christ did not escape the trials and oppositions of that deceitful spirit by which they were acted. *For such*, saith *Paul*, *are false Apostles, deceitful Workers, Satans Ministers, transforming themselves into the likeness of the Apostles of Christ*, 2 Cor. 11. Some of these were already come in his day: *And I know*, saith he, *that after my departure grievous wolves shall come in among you, not sparing the flock: also, of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them*, Acts 20. 29, *&c.* And as the Kingdom of Antichrist grew, these perverse things were established for Doctrine by a Law: For the very Name of Antichrist holds forth a spirit opposing it self to every appearance of Christ, and of his holy Spirit and Anointing in man.

The true Apostles and Ministers of Christ drew the soul from men and self, unto Christ, and his Anointing in them, to know that to teach them: but these, and all other false teachers, draw from Christ and his Anointing within, to look at Flesh and Form without, which perfects not at all to God. *And of this sort also are they*, saith the same *Paul*, *which creep into houses* (understand the great stone houses, called Churches, as well as others) *and lead captive silly Women, laden with sins, led away with divers lusts; ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the Truth*, 2 Tim. 3. *Of this sort*, saith *Paul*, *as shall come in the last perilous*

times, even Lovers of their own ſelves, Covetous, Boaſters, Proud, Blaſphemers, Unholy, (who ſay they are Chriſtians, but are not ſo in truth) *Fierce,* &c. *having the Form of Godlineſs, but denying the Power thereof*; and theſe he exhorted true Believers to *turn from*; and ſo in obedience to God, thoſe now who are come to know Chriſt and his anointing in them, to teach them, are turned from ſuch. And though theſe Deceivers have proceeded for a time, to wit, during the late night of Apoſtacy, which *Paul*, 2 *Theſſ.* 2. ſpake of, *to deceive many*; Yet now that the Light is riſen again from under the earth, they are manifeſt, and can proceed no further. Let none therefore now be ſo void of underſtanding, as to brand the true Meſſengers of Jeſus Chriſt in this day, with the name of Deceivers, Becauſe they declare truth, not only publickly, but alſo from houſe to houſe, by virtue of the holy Spirit only; for ſo did the Apoſtles themſelves, and yet were no creepers into houſes; for creeping into houſes denotes the work of the children of darkneſs, who run without the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, his Spirit, or Authority, in their own wills, for ſelf ends, as before: leading about People in their fillineſs and ſinfulneſs all their dayes, as by woful experience, in the late Ages of the World, ſince the Apoſtles dayes, hath been fully manifeſt; wherein the *World hath wondred after the Beaſt.* And *as there were falſe Prophets among the People*, ſaith *Peter*, *even ſo alſo ſhall there be falſe teachers among you; who ſhall privily bring in damnable Hereſies*, &c. 2 Pet. 2. But how may theſe be known, may ſome ſay; *By their fruits*, ſaith Chriſt, *ye ſhall know them. And of this ſort are they*, ſaith *Peter*, in the ſame Chapter, *who through covetouſneſs, with fained words, make merchandiſe of People; and by walking after the fleſh, in the luſt of covetouſneſs and uncleanneſs, and deſpite of Chriſts Government, even deny the Lord that bought them.* Theſe are the preſumptuous ones indeed, who count it pleaſure to ryot in the day time, ſpeaking evil of the worthy things that God works and makes manifeſt in his Children, which theſe preſumptuous ones know not. And theſe falſe Teachers are of thoſe whoſe eyes are full of adultery, and that cannot ceaſe from ſin: for how ſhould they, ſeeing their heart is exerciſed with covetous practiſes, loving the wages of unrighteouſneſs, like *Balaam*, as he (to wit, the Apoſtle *Peter*) there ſpeaks. And therefore, thoſe that ſee not theſe are blind indeed; and thoſe that theſe Teachers can deceive, may well be ſaid to be without

a foundation: and hence it hath comes to pass that through such Teachers wickedness and Peoples ignorance, the World hath been as a Wilderness. And now therefore is the the Lord, according to his blessed Promise, bringing up that knowledge of himself and his Christ again, that shall *make the Wilderness a fruitful Field, and sweet smelling Garden for himself to be glorified in.* And this *knowledge of God shall cover the Earth as the Waters do the Sea.* And, thereby *shall all hurting and destroying be done away from amongst men,* Isa. 65. *last*; as is this day witnessed amongst such where this knowledge of God hath place. Glory to his Name for ever. So now therefore all ye Kings, Princes, Potentates and Rulers of the Earth, see in what Principle you stand, and upon what Foundation you grow, and whose work you are a doing; whether Gods or your own. True Magistrates are not a terrour to the good, but to the evil But how can ye see the good and the evil truly asunder, or know what to punish, and what to protect, if you come not to the Light, Christ Jesus, that true Light *which lighteth every man that cometh into the world* (as was said before) to take counsel at him, for *he is the wonderful Counsellour*; and whatsoever makes things truly manifest is his Light, and with it every hard thing is known, and every secret thing found out, but without it nothing; but all People that walk in the darkness of their own understandings, do erre in Vision and stumble in Judgment, and so know not what they do nor whither they go: and this way that seemeth good in the mans own eye, is that which alwayes tended to death, and disordered all things. And by such a judgement *Barralas* was released, and the innocent Jesus delivered to be crucified; and by this the false Prophets in all ages were protected and born up, and the dear Servants of Christ cast out as a thing of nought.

So arise, arise, awake, awake to righteousness and sin not, for the Lord is on his way to give unto every Nation, and each People therein, Rewards according to their Works, without respect of persons. And until Gods righteousness rule in all, and over all, how can any thing stand, let that of God in all Consciences judge; So lay things to heart, for this is the day of your visitation. Also, you Bishops and high Teachers, who are pleased in your mindes because accepted of man; consider, *Are you accepted of God?* Is your Sacrifice so pure, and your Persons so innocent, that the holy God can receive them? Is your Doctrine so sound, and

Life incorrupt that none can justly blame it? Have your Hands handled the Word of Life which you speak of to others? And do you know in your selves what that living sharp and powerful Word of God is (which the Apostle, *Heb.* 4. speaks of) *which divides betwixt joynt and marrow, soul and spirit, and discerneth all the thoughts and intents of every heart*? And are your hearts cleansed by it? And do you preach and minister this internal, living, and eternal Truth (the Word) to the People, or the dead Letter only? See how it is: For the Fruit now must be the real witness of every Trees nature. Have you received the free gift from above? Then sell it not for mony. Would you be accounted Ministers and Embassadors of Christ, and would you have the Children of Light to own you? Then approve your selves to them as *Paul* did to the Brethren in his dayes, 2 *Cor.* 6. 3, *&c. In much Patience, in Afflictions, in Necessities, in Distresses, in Stripes, in Imprisonments; as dying, yet alive* in the hearts of the Hearers by the power of Truth, *&c.* And let all People see that you mind the good of the Soul, and Gods glory, more than the World, and your own self-ease and advantage: For the Day is dawned that makes all things manifest. And lay by your carnal Weapons, and make proof of your spiritual Weapons (if you have any) and try a little, how you can perswade men to be of your mind by that means: for People begin to question much the forcing of men into Religion by the carnal Sword and outward Constraint, whether it be of God or no. For its found by experience, that into what People are forced by the outward Power, by the same meanes may they be forced out of that again, and so remain restless and without a foundation, until the Truth it self settle them. So set not up your rest in the Wilderness, much less in *Egypt*, but look towards the holy Land, the undefiled, unmoveable Foundation, and suffer others to do so too. And those that have spied out the good Land, hinder them not from entring in, but help them on in their journey, if you can, lest you be found *fighters* against God. For now is the effect of every Vision coming in; and a feeble one in this blessed *Jerusalem*, that is descended, and daily coming down from God out of Heaven, *is as David, and David as the Angel of God before them*, Zach. 12. 8. he that runs may now read it his eye be open. And blessed are all that have believed in Gods holy Name; these will not be troubled

at Zions Prosperity, but will set to their Seal that God is true, and praise the Lord with us, the Children of the Womb of the Eternal Morning, *Praised be God. So be it.*

And all know a separation in your selves betwixt the precious and the vile, and the vile brought under, and the precious bearing rule there, and then will you be in some measure able to discern and judge aright of things abroad, but not until then. The carnal man seeks to gather a great heap into a Form, but the Spiritual man whose eye is in his head, he seeks to bring People out of the evil of the world into the good of Gods Kingdom and power of Godliness. Blessed are they that can lay down all their own at the feet of Jesus Christ, that they may be what they are in him; for the World and the Glory of it, and the Lovers of it, is as a fading Flower, *but he only that doth the Will of God abides for ever.*

Given forth in the Movings of the Spirit of the Lord God, in his Servant, who is a Sufferer amongst his Reproached Ones (called Quakers*) for the Testimony of his Everlasting Truth; praised and blessed be God for ever, who hath counted us worthy thereunto.*

T. Taylor.

THE END.

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